FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE

Tuberculosis Research Laboratory
411 East 69th Street, New York 21

July 2, 1952

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wis.

Dear Josh:

I am leaving for Europe tomorrow, so this is a hurried reply to your letter of June 2nd. I will get in touch with you in the Fall about the matter of the dominance of various drug-resistances. I think the scoring will be a rather finicky matter, so we should perhaps put it off until I have worked out the simplest protocol I can. In addition, I just saw Aaron and Szilard this week and have tentatively arranged to spend a long weekend in Chicago sometime in October. It would be nice if we could get together with you and discuss drug-resistance at that time.

Thank you for the information on Phyllis Fried. As matters stand, we will be having mostly transient research fellows next year and hence will not be able to use another assistant. Werner is going to Lipman's lab for a year and Henry Vogel is leaving for Bonner's. The only hold-over will be Dr. Weiss, our organic chemist.

I am sorry Elise did not work out better, but I do not suppose I could have forseen how things would go. The switch to Veterinary Science sounds like a very good solution because it seems to me that Elise should try to stick to science but under not too exacting circumstances.

W-1926 led us on a long wild goose chase with a few interesting side-paths. Since its slow growth on threonine plus a purine could be markedly accelerated by yeast extract, I entertained the notion for a little while that it still might lead us to an unknown factor. It now turns out, however, that it grows well on α-amino butyric acid or isoleucine, and like other mutants of this type can slowly utilize d-threonine but not l-threonine. This identification was complicated by the fact that the response to threonine is strikingly inhibited by glycine or alanine. At present I do not expect to do any more with it, since the aromatics are still a fultime job.

We are now tracking down a precursor of phenylalanine which is accumulated at 1 day, and then gets converted to phenylalanine after several days of incubation. It looks as though the cells carry out this conversion, although it can also be produced by heating the precursor in acid solution.

I have not done anything on the isonicotinic hydrazydes. They are said to be very specific for tubercle bacilli and notto inhibit E. coli.

I wish you and Esther an very nice summer.

Sincerely,

Renée